

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 11-17 and 22-34 have been previously withdrawn. Claims 18-21, 35, and 36 have been cancelled. The amendment is believed to introduce no new matter, and its entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 18 –21, 35, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Endoh et al. (US 5,323,117) in view of Kobayashi et al. (US 5,949,230). Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 18-21, 35, and 36 are cancelled and the rejection of claims 18-21, 35, and 36 is now considered moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-10 are allowable as written. Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1-10 are the only claims pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Michael Bell at (202) 383-6500.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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